NUMB. XXXII.

The GUARDIAN.

——ipſe volens faciliſque ſequetur
Si te Fata vocant: aliter non viribus ullis
Vincas—— Virg.

Friday, April 17. 1713.

HAving delivered my Thoughts upon Paſtoral Poetry, after a Didactic manner, in ſome foregoing Papers, wherein I have taken ſuch Hints from the Criticks as I thought rational, and departed from them according to the beſt of my Judgment, and ſubſtituted others in their Place, I ſhall cloſe the whole with the following Fable or Allegory.

In ancient Times there dwelt in a pleaſant Vale of *Arcadia* a Man of very ample Poſſeſſions, named *Menalcas*; who, deriving his Pedigree from the God *Pan*, kept very ſtrictly up to the Rules of the Paſtoral Life, as it was in the *Golden Age*. He had a Daughter, his only Child, called *Amaryllis*. She was a Virgin of a moſt enchanting Beauty, of a moſt eaſie and unaffected Air; but having been bred up wholly in the Country, was baſhful to the laſt Degree. She had a Voice that was exceeding ſweet, yet had a Ruſticity in its Tone, which however to moſt who heard her ſeemed an additional Charm. Though in her Converſation in general ſhe was very engaging, yet to her Lovers, who were numerous, ſhe was ſo coy, that many left her in Diſguſt after a tedious Courtſhip, and matched themſelves where they were better received. For *Menalcas* had not only reſolved to take a Son in Law, who ſhould inviolably maintain the Cuſtoms of his Family; but had received one Evening, as he walked in the Fields, a Pipe of an Antique Form from a *Faun*, or, as ſome ſay, from *Oberon* the Fairy, with a particular Charge not to beſtow his Daughter upon any one, who could not play the ſame Tune upon it as at that time he entertained him with.

When the Time that he had deſigned to give her in Marriage was near at hand, he publiſhed a Decree, whereby he invited the neighbouring Youths to make Trial of this Muſical Inſtrument, with Promiſe that the Victor ſhould poſſeſs his Daughter, on Condition that the Vanquiſhed ſhould ſubmit to what Puniſhment he thought fit to inflict. Thoſe who were not yet diſcouraged, and had high Conceits of their own Worth, appeared on the appointed Day, in a Dreſs and Equipage ſuitable to their reſpective Fancies.

The Place of Meeting was a flowery Meadow, through which a clear Stream murmured in many irregular Meanders. The Shepherds made a ſpacious Ring for the contending Lovers; and in one Part of it there ſate upon a little Throne of Turf, under an Arch of Eglantine and Wood-bines, the Father of the Maid, and at his Right Hand the Damſel crowned with Roſes and Lillies. She wore a flying Robe of a ſlight green Stuff; ſhe had her Sheep-hook in one Hand, and the fatal Pipe in the other.

The Firſt who approached her was a Youth of a graceful Preſence and courtly Air, but dreſt in a richer Habit than had ever been ſeen in *Arcadia*. He wore a Crimſon Veſt, cut indeed after the Shepherd's Faſhion, but ſo enriched with Embroidery, and ſparkling with Jewels, that the Eyes of the Spectators were diverted from conſidering the Mode of the Garment by the dazling of the Ornaments. His Head was covered with a Plume of Feathers, and his Sheep-hook glittered with Gold and Enamel. He accoſted the Damſel after a very gallant manner, and told her, * *Madam, you needed not to conſult your Glaſs, to adorn your ſelf to Day; you may ſee the Greatneſs of your Beauty in the Number of your Conqueſts.* She having never heard any Compliment ſo polite, could give him no Anſwer, but preſented the

* *Vid.* Fontenelle.

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